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ON THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.

[The following discussion on an important disease took place at a meeting of the Medical Society of London on the 10th of April. We copy it from the London Lancet.]

Dr. Radcliffe then read a paper on this subject. He first drew attention to the *temperament* of epileptics, and showed that this was distinguished by unequivocal marks of weakness and depression; signs of scrofula or some other cachectic disposition, of depressed and feeble circulation, of defective nervous activity, of muscular feebleness, might always be detected, but never the signs of true plethora or of hyperactivity in the nervous or any other system. When epilepsy had shown itself in persons distinguished by their genius and talent, it was in the state of exhaustion induced by the exercise of that genius and talent; when it was associated with insanity, the convulsive disorder coincided with the intervals of depression, and never with the periods of quasi-excitement. After describing the phenomena of epilepsy, he proceeded to point out the continuance of the same signs of depression and exhaustion, and to show that the change which had taken place was always one of aggravated depression and exhaustion. This he did by a special examination of the condition of the vascular and nervous systems. Immediately before and after the fit, the pulse was shown to be weak and collapsed, and often irregular and slow, and in the fit itself little or no blood was found to be propelled into the vessels. This condition of the circulating system entailed a corresponding failure in the activity of the several nervous centres. He argued also that the brain was inactive, because the epileptic was silent, sad, moody, and generally still, before his seizure; completely bereft of sensibility, consciousness, and volition in his seizure; and stupid, confused and exhausted afterwards. He argued also from the true appearances found after death. He noticed the views of Dr. Davey and Dr. Henry Monro in connection with insanity, as corroborating this conclusion. He advanced arguments to show that the medulla oblongata, spinal cord, and the smaller ganglionic centres, were in a corresponding state of inactivity. Dr. Radcliffe then insisted upon the absence of any local disorder as a cause of epilepsy, and said that the only way in which any such disorder had to do with the matter,

was in aggravating the general debility and prostration of the system. Under this head he went on to notice the views of Dr. Marshall Hall. He contended that in epilepsy there was no proof whatever of any increased irritation in the spinal cord, any more than in the medulla oblongata and brain, but that there were abundance of proofs of a directly opposite condition. He doubted that trachelismus and laryngismus, with the consequent cranial and cervical engorgement, had any necessary connection with epilepsy. He did this because there were distinct contractions in the limbs and elsewhere, before the occurrence of the spasmodic tightening of the muscles of the neck and larynx, and because the fit ceases when the congestion was at its height—so that he conceived Dr. Hall's theory had two insuperable difficulties to contend with, the one that the fit had actually begun before it ought (that is to say, before the congestion had showed itself), the other that it ceased when it ought to have been most violent (that is, when the congestion was at its height). He (Dr. Radcliffe) argued, also, against the hypothesis of trachelismus and laryngismus, from its non-applicability to very many cases of epilepsy, in which cases, and in many other convulsive disorders, no such phenomena could be detected. He said further that this hypothesis did not account for the insensibility of epilepsy, for, in his opinion, this insensibility (which was much more frequently of the nature of syncope than coma) was, as a general rule, due to a syncopal condition of the circulation rather than to any venous congestion in the vessels of the brain produced by the spasmodic tightening of the muscles of the neck. The mere violence of the muscular contractions or convulsions in epilepsy, Dr. Radcliffe said, was no objection to the existence of the most positive prostration and depression; on the contrary, this very phenomenon was the best proof of the existence of that state. Muscular contraction, physiologically as well as pathologically, was always (he asserted) the sign of some withdrawal of the nervous and other stimuli which appertain to the muscles, and never the result of the communication or importation of these stimuli; and for the confirmation of this opinion he referred to his published views on muscular physiology and pathology, and to the facts which had just been stated in connection with epilepsy. Upon the treatment, he argued at some length against low diet, and in favor of the most nutritious food, with stimulant and corroborative drinks, and against over-exercise and in favor of *rest*. Citing many other arguments, he conceived that the non-existence of vascular or nervous excitement, and the existence of a directly opposite condition, was itself an insuperable objection to bleeding and purging in this malady, and an argument for the necessity of stimulants and tonics, and all means which could corroborate the system. Narcotics, counter-irritants and emetics were condemned. The convulsion-exciting properties of strychnia were stated to be argument against rather than in favor of that drug. He objected, also, to tracheotomy in the cure of epilepsy, on the ground that there were many cases of that malady in which the larynx was not sensibly affected, and in which the impediment to the respiration was rather owing to irregular action or spasmodic fixation in the thoracic muscles and diaphragm, than to mere closure of the larynx.

Dr. Davey concurred in the views advanced by Dr. Radcliffe, and mentioned that in the Asylum at Colney Hatch, epileptics, who were usually admitted in a low state of vitality, were best treated by tonics and a judicious and discriminating diet. He related several cases to show that this treatment had been attended with the best results. In some cases wine and porter were added to nutritious diet. He expressed his belief that in the treatment of all nervous disorders practitioners had gone too far generally on the antiphlogistic system, by which he was sure many cases had been rendered incurable. Kind treatment, the avoidance of mechanical restraint, added to proper diet and regimen, had been found the best improvers of the mind and health, of the great majority of those who came under his care at the Colney Hatch Asylum.

Mr. Richardson agreed with the author of the paper, that the attempt to localize the seat of epilepsy, especially in the brain, had been a failure; and mentioned a number of cases in proof. He differed with Dr. Radcliffe as to depression generally producing the epileptic seizure, and mentioned a case in particular where the fit came on during exertion, which had not been carried to fatigue. He differed also in thinking that epilepsy in talented persons usually came on after the brain had begun to fail in power. With respect to remedies, he thought, as a rule, that spirituous liquors did harm, and porter sometimes brought the epilepsy on. He eulogized the employment of tartar-emetic and valerian, and the use of issues and counter-irritants. Small bloodlettings were also sometimes admissible.

Dr. Dendy thought Dr. Radcliffe's treatment opposed to his theory. He (Dr. Dendy) suggested a combination of remedies as useful in some cases; such as the abstraction of blood to remove congestion, which might exist locally, as in cholera, even in otherwise healthy states of the system, and then to give tonics and support immediately. He thought that in all cases of epilepsy some lesion of the nervous system must exist. He complained that hallucinations, insanity, and other subjects had been mixed up in the discussion with epilepsy.

Dr. Webster agreed with the author in considering epilepsy as generally a disease of exhaustion, and that most frequently it affected persons of debilitated, broken-down constitutions. The complaint was also more apt to occur in parties endued with a scrofulous diathesis, especially if their parents had also suffered from the same affection. Indeed, hereditary tendency exerted considerable influence, and he considered epilepsy very liable to be transmitted to offspring, like some other maladies of that character. According to his (Dr. Webster's) experience, it was more frequent amongst the lower than the upper ranks, both in this country and in France; whilst he would further say, it oftener attacked males compared with females. This was certainly the case in many French asylums which he had recently inspected, where male epileptics predominated considerably. Respecting the causes often producing epilepsy, he considered terror as one of the most powerful; of which a very striking example some time ago came under his observation. It was that of a young woman, who was frightened by a fellow-servant disguised as a ghost, with a light in his hand, when he suddenly appeared

before her at the end of a dark passage. She became so alarmed as to fall down in a fit of epilepsy, which afterwards frequently returned; and in one of these violent seizures Dr. Webster attended the patient. This disorder he considered almost incurable during the latter periods of life, or even in adults, especially when complicated with insanity. Instances of recovery might be occasionally reported, but they were so rare as to render the prognosis always unfavorable. In early age, or before puberty, the prospect of recovery was much greater, and he might refer to several cases proving this inference, but it seemed unnecessary, as the fact must be well known to practitioners. Dr. Radcliffe's observations relative to the treatment of this often terrible disease, coincided very much with the principles he (Dr. Webster) would recommend. Respecting bleeding there could not prevail two opinions, and to use the lancet was most objectionable. Even the topical abstraction of blood in young plethoric subjects required great caution, and then only to relieve local congestion. With the author Dr. Webster also entirely agreed regarding the use of purgatives, although he would not employ drastic cathartics, as similar remedies occasioned too much debility. Allusion having been made to various mineral preparations at one time enjoying considerable reputation in epilepsy, but now seldom reputed efficacious, he (Dr. Webster) must mention one recently employed by a friend of his own—viz., Dr. Fornasari, physician to the Fains Lunatic Asylum in France, which he had visited last autumn. The remedy was valerianate of zinc, given in doses from half a grain to one, night and morning, which might be increased to three grains per day. Occasional purgatives were also prescribed, and frequent baths, the diet being also carefully regulated. Dr. Fornasari spoke favorably of the benefits it produced; and several cases then in the Asylum had derived so much relief, that fits, which at first recurred every three, six, or eight days, had not supervened for more than three months. Supported by the above authority in favor of the valerianate of zinc, Dr. Webster administered it lately to a patient laboring under epilepsy, and apparently with such advantage as would induce him to recommend employing the same mineral in other examples. Although nutritious diet and generous regimens were often essential for epileptic patients, he thought indigestible food frequently acted in an injurious manner. Indeed, a full meal of improper substances often proved the exciting cause; and he could quote one case which came under his observation, where a person having eaten freely of fried bacon and eggs at supper, was seized with so severe a fit, about 3 o'clock next morning, that death followed in consequence. Notwithstanding wine and malt liquors, even in large quantities, had been recommended by several fellows, such stimulating beverages might be taken too freely; and he must remark, unless under special circumstances, much porter or ale was by no means so useful as wine diluted with water, where stimulants were really required. Great caution, therefore, became necessary when adopting that kind of treatment. Before sitting down, Dr. Webster observed, although he coincided with Mr. Richardson in opinion that many lesions of the brain and nervous system did not produce epileptic seizures, still these affections generally

depended upon or indicated organic changes of structure within the cranium ; at least his individual experience fully warranted such conclusions respecting the pathology of epilepsy.

Dr. Radcliffe, in answer, said, that the very extended experience of Dr. Davey as to the necessity of good diet with wine and beer in epilepsy, was a strong argument in favor of the view he had advocated. He said any one would be sensible of the advantages of such a course, who, remembering the appearance of epileptics in our own or in foreign hospitals a few years ago, now paid a visit to Colney Hatch or Hanwell. He would at least learn that good food and wine and beer did no harm. In answer to Mr. Richardson's objection that the epileptic was not always depressed before the fit, he called up Mr. Richardson's own admission that he had not watched that point particularly. To another objection from the same gentleman, that Mahomet was epileptic during the most vigorous period of his life, he answered that Mahomet saw visions in his fits, and that on that account those fits could not be epileptic, inasmuch as the consciousness is suspended in epilepsy. He thought it better to reason from recent cases, the particulars of which were better known, and from the general history of the disease ; which being done, he (Dr. Radcliffe) thought Mr. Richardson would be obliged to admit that the system of the epileptic was always marked by prostration, and most of all so marked in the fit itself. In reply to Mr. Dendy's defence of bleeding, he thought the utter absence of plethoric excitement and of nervous hyper-activity, and the presence of signs directly opposite to these in their nature, together with the absence of any ill effect from the generous treatment pursued at Colney Hatch and elsewhere, were insuperable objections to bleeding in any form. If Mr. Dendy took exceptions to Dr. Davey's arguments for a good diet and wine and beer from his experience and particular views of the nature of insanity, he must object to the necessity of bleeding in epilepsy being deduced from what Mr. Dendy had seen in cholera. Nor could he admit the soundness of the practice of combining remedies of opposite qualities, as local bleeding with tonics, which practice, in his opinion, was the relic of the ancient practice of jumbling all manner of remedies together, in the benevolent hope that one or the other of them might chance to do good.

THE LIVER AND ITS DISEASES.

BY W. B. HERRICK, M.D., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

" The jaundiced thus, see all things round them clad
In yellow ; every object as it flows
Meeting new tides of yellow, from their forms
Thrown forth incessant ; and the lurid eye,
Deep, too, imbued with its contagious hue,
Painting each image that its orb assails."

THE above quotation from Lucretius, descriptive of a class of persons whose defective visual organs "see all things round them clad in yel-

low," cannot fail to remind the reader of certain practitioners, the patients of whom are always *bilious*.

With them constipation or diarrhoea, dry skin or profuse perspiration, want of sensibility or extreme irritability, alike indicate that their patients are bilious, and require, therefore, in their treatment, blue pill, calomel, or some other mercurial.

This class of physicians, who thus make diseases so unlike in character and symptoms dependent upon the same cause, and, as a consequence, adopt the routine practice above indicated, must be deficient in judgment and mental capacity; or, what is worse, too indolent to obtain and appropriate to their use the facts and information acquired by others, by which their mental vision might be extended, so as to embrace more than a single class of diseases, and one mode of treatment.

In order to show that we are fully justified in making these strictures upon this class of practitioners, we will state briefly what is now known of the structure and functions of that organ, upon the abnormal condition of which these so-called bilious affections are supposed to be dependent.

The *liver*, as is well known, is a glandular organ, constituted of cells, excretory ducts, and bloodvessels. The cells are supplied by the *vena portarum* with the imperfectly elaborated and impure venous blood, directly from the absorbing mucous surfaces of the stomach and intestines; whilst the ducts, on the other hand, are surrounded by the terminal branches of the hepatic artery, containing pure blood from the great arterial current.

From recent physiological investigations, it appears highly probable that the hepatic cells abstract from the impure blood in the portal vein the starchy and, perhaps, some other carbonaceous substances derived from food, and change them either into the fatty constituents of bile, or into sugar, to be reabsorbed by the hepatic veins.

That this change from starch granules to fat globules does in reality take place in the hepatic cells of the higher order of animals, is rendered almost certain by the observations made by Liedy upon the follicular liver of the crustacea.

"When," says he, "a *cæcum* is viewed beneath the microscope, its lower half appears filled with a finely granular matter, and the anterior half with a mass of fat cells." That some of the carbonaceous substances contained in the blood are changed into sugar, during its passage through the liver, is made evident by the recent very conclusive and highly philosophical investigations of M. Bernard.

"He examined," says Donaldson, "the contents of all the principal venous trunks: the *vena porta*, the inferior and superior cava, the jugular, &c., and, singular to say, he could nowhere detect its presence (sugar), but in the hepatic veins, and in the ascending cava, and thence to the right auricle. There being no trace of it in the blood flowing into the liver, nor yet in the pulmonary veins, was not our experimenter justified in coming to the conclusion that it was fabricated in the liver and destroyed in the lungs?"

According to Liebig, the saccharine constituents of blood are, by two

successive stages of oxydation, converted primarily into lactic acid, and finally into carbonic acid and water. Hence it would appear that sugar, whether absorbed directly as such, or formed in the liver, in the manner above indicated, supplies by its combustion the amount of animal heat required over and above that which would necessarily result from other and more important chemico-vital changes.

In view of these facts, it is rendered highly probable, if not absolutely certain, that the office of the hepatic cells is to take up the starchy materials, contained in the portal blood, and convert them either into fat or sugar, according as they are required or not to subserve the immediate purposes of respiration—into sugar when, from a deficiency of lactic acid and other organic compounds readily convertible into carbonic acid and water, there is a deficiency; and into fat, when an excess of these substances affords already an abundant supply of respiratory food.

The sugar thus formed is taken up by the hepatic veins, and passes immediately into the circulation, there to be changed by oxydation; first into lactic or some other organic acid, and finally into carbonic acid and water.

The fat, on the other hand, passes into the terminal branches of the hepatic ducts, where it finds, in the capillary net-work derived from the hepatic arteries by which they are surrounded, an abundant supply of arterial blood. This, doubtless, furnishes both the oxygen and the alkali, by which the fatty matter is rendered soluble, and made to pass readily and easily through the small hepatic ducts as a fatty acid combined with soda, in the form of bile.

These views of the physiological action of the liver are fully sustained by numerous facts, physiological, pathological, and chemical, which, however, cannot be presented in the short space allotted to this article; it being our object at this time, not to sustain our own peculiar physiological views, but to make such practical suggestions as may serve to direct the attention of our readers to the subject, and to show them the absurdity of the present indiscriminate mode of practice, adopted by many, in the so-called bilious affections, supposed to be dependent always upon some morbid condition or action of this much-abused organ.

From what has been said, it is evident that in warm latitudes, and in summer, when there is less oxygen, and, consequently, more lactic and other organic acids in the blood, the liver must change a larger proportion of the starchy constituents of food into fat. If the amount of oxygen and free soda in the blood is sufficient to combine with this fat, and render it soluble, it passes readily out of the liver into the intestines, in the form of bile, and is re-absorbed by the lacteals, like other fatty matter, and no indications of disease appear; or if in great excess, it passes off in the form of profuse bilious discharges, so common in the summer, especially in the South and West. A still greater deficiency of oxygen, and consequent accumulation of organic acids in the blood, to combine with its alkaline constituents, would diminish proportionally the amount of free soda, and thus prevent it from entering into the constitution of bile to a sufficient extent to make it perfectly soluble, and to neutralize its fatty acids, and thus give rise to acrid and vitiated bilious

discharges, or to congestion, torpidity, and enlargement of the liver, from an accumulation of imperfectly-dissolved fatty matter in the hepatic ducts.

Admitting the correctness of the above views, it is evident that the proper treatment for the whole class of liver affections, above enumerated, would be the administration of alkalies, especially those which are among the natural constituents of blood, such as potash and soda.

Two years' experience in the use of potash and soda, in some of their forms, as remedies in the above-named class of diseases, has convinced the writer that one or both may be used with confidence as substitutes for calomel, in the treatment of such cases.

That the class of remedies under consideration was formerly used much more extensively than at present in liver affections, is evident from the following quotation from Good's Study of Medicine, published in 1829, in which, after discussing the merits of the dandelion as a remedy for jaundice, the author remarks that "soap and alkalies seem to have much better pretensions to favor, and have been still more widely employed in this disease, and pretty generally regarded as general, and hence hepatic solvents."—*North-Western Med. and Surg. Jour.*

TO INVALID TRAVELLERS IN PURSUIT OF HEALTH.

BY STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M.D., DEERFIELD, MASS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In the spring and beginning of the summer of 1851, I made an excursion to the Valley of the Mississippi by the way of western New York, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. I returned by Michilimackinac (commonly called Mackinaw) and the Upper Lakes. I made many inquiries and observations in the States and territories, through which I passed, in relation to the salubrity and health of particular locations, and herewith transmit some of my remarks, together with those of others amply qualified to judge upon the subject. They may be of some service to the travelling invalid whose chronic complaints may induce him for awhile to leave his home and his employments, in pursuit of the greatest blessing man receives from bounteous heaven—health. I should have published these remarks immediately upon my return last summer, but the season was so far advanced that but few would avail themselves that year of the advantages here pointed out. As the season is now approaching, if it has not already arrived, when such persons are about commencing their summer excursions, this may be the appropriate time to publish them.

I do not wish to turn the attention of the invalid from the celebrated springs of Saratoga. No one has a higher opinion of them, in many chronic complaints, than I have, and I annually advise many of my patients to visit them. They may readily be visited by the route which I propose to point out. To the South I have great objections on account of the debilitating effect of the climate, especially in the summer.

To give some account of my excursion. I left Deerfield in company with my wife, on the 5th of May, 1851, which is too early for the invalid, and proceeded directly to Albany, through the pleasant towns of Northampton, Holyoke, Springfield, Westfield and Pittsfield; thence through those thriving cities and towns, Schenectady, Utica, Syracuse, Auburn, Geneva, Canandaigua, Rochester and Buffalo. These are too well known to the reader to need any description from my pen. I will here premise that no traveller should ever pass by that greatest natural curiosity in the wide world, the Falls of Niagara. Without going much out of his way, he can take the cars at Lockport and reach that celebrated cataract in little more than an hour. I had previously visited the Falls, and my time would not now allow of my visiting them again. At Buffalo I went on board the *May Flower*, a floating gilded palace, commanded by one of the most gentlemanly officers with whom I have ever been acquainted, Capt. Van Allen, bound for Detroit, by the way of the Canada or western shore of Lake Erie. We breakfasted and dined on board the boat, upon as great dainties as may be found in the Astor House in New York, or the Tremont or Revere at Boston. At Detroit we took the cars on the Michigan Central Railroad for Chicago, which then ran as far as New Buffalo, where we took a steamboat across the south end of Lake Michigan, thirty-five miles to Chicago. The cars now run from New Buffalo to the latter place. Chicago now contains near forty thousand inhabitants, and is as beautifully built as any inland town in the United States, and some of the hotels there are said to be equal to any in New York or Philadelphia. Twenty years ago Chicago was a swamp and a quagmire. Here was the location of old Fort Dearborn, for a reminiscence of which see Colton's *Illinois and the West*. Near Chicago commence the prairies which so extensively abound in the noble State of Illinois, and which emphatically give it, and some other of the western States, the name of "prairie land." Chicago lies upon the very border of Grand Prairie, which extends perhaps one hundred miles to the west. From Chicago to Rockford, one hundred miles to the north-west, and even further, it is one continued prairie. This is the first one I ever saw, and I was astonished at the extent of it. For many miles from Rockford, on the Rock river, in Winnebago county, the prairie is very level, as far as the eye can reach, and no one who has never seen one of them can conceive of its beauty or fertility. On the borders of the prairies, many miles apart, are extensive oak openings, or orchards, sometimes erroneously called barrens. These openings are unsurpassed in beauty. There is no underbrush among them, and you can ride among the trees, even in a carriage, as pleasantly as upon the best of roads. The oaks are principally the burr oaks, the limbs of which are very ragged, and they look very homely until the foliage is out, when the tree is truly beautiful. There are some other trees on the prairies, such as the white oak, the black oak, the elm and maple. Hazel bushes are abundant. The prairies are interspersed with several beautiful towns; and here the chronic invalid, and especially the dyspeptic, if his complaint is not too far advanced, and if he has a love for the beautiful in nature, can revel and luxuriate in the grandeur and love-

liness of the place. And what can be more exhilarating to the mind and body? Suffer me to give some account of the prairies from an accurate sketch of Illinois and the West, by A. D. Jones.

"And what shall I say of the prairies—those immense sea fields, clothed with their heavy robe of green, and dotted and slashed with gold and azure, vermilion and orange, reflected from flowers of every size and shape, bewildering the traveller with their intense beauty, their rich and endless variety? The prairies are of two kinds, and are distinguished as rolling or flat. The rolling prairies are gently and irregularly undulating, having swells of from twenty to sixty feet high, and all lengths and breadths; between which are sloughs, called in the dialect of the place, '*sloos*.' There is something like being out at sea in the sensation one feels in the middle of these vast prairies. Not a tree or a shrub disturbs the unbroken waste of green. Grass, grass, grass, on every hand, interspersed with flowers and tall weeds. The idea entertained at the East that these prairies are an unbroken level, is a mistaken one. Were it so, they would necessarily become lakes or impassable swamps. They are completely broken up into hill and dale—on a miniature scale, it is true, but nevertheless of sufficient altitude and depression to give a great variety to travelling, and sometimes to form tedious and even dangerous ascents and descents in the road. Between all these ridges water may be found, and generally running streams, though obscured by the rank growth of grass. These sloughs are generally muddy, and in wet seasons exceedingly bad in crossing, as but very few, except those which are impassable, are bridged. They seem, however, to form an agreeable variety to the traveller, and a comfortable retreat from the fierce blasts of winter, to the wild beasts that range these boundless fields. Besides which, they afford constant water to the herds which graze there, and springs near which the benighted traveller may encamp with comfort and safety. The grass in these ravines grows to a great height. It is coarse and unfit for feeding. When the traveller is passing through them he can see but little farther than the sailor in the 'trough of the sea,' and the situation is not entirely dissimilar; but when he reaches the height of the mound above him, his vision is unlimited save by the horizon.

"*Health, Diseases, &c.*—With regard to the health of Illinois, I am on the whole inclined to believe that a more salubrious climate does not exist in the United States. On the river bottoms and in the wet places, particularly in the lower latitudes, it cannot be denied there is much unhealthiness; but in the higher and drier regions, I do believe there is far less disease and death than in any spot in New England. And besides, in the most sickly parts the diseases are fewer in number, and yield to proper treatment with more certainty, than at the East. And, still more, nine tenths of the diseases are induced by careless exposure, which at the East would produce fatal results. Great care is here necessary to preserve the person from bilious attacks, and fever and ague, and the utmost promptitude in the application of medical means; but those means rarely fail to produce the happiest results if seasonably supplied. The most common type of disease is bilious lung fever.

Pleurisy, influenza, dysentery, consumption, and almost all chronic diseases, if, indeed, I except rheumatism, are rare here, unless they have been inherited or contracted at the East. In what I have here said, I have not trusted fully to my own judgment, but have consulted several skilful physicians on the spot, and men who would not be likely to deceive me in this respect; and I think any one at all acquainted with the subject will find my statements conformable to the observations of experience.

"*Water.*—One of the greatest bugbears of this place, and one which is always brought up in conjunction with Illinois, is its water. I know not how many stories I heard of the deleterious qualities and the disgusting properties of the water in Illinois. Indeed, I had made up my mind to undergo a severe privation in this respect, being a great water drinker, and indulging in scarcely any other beverage. I expected nothing during my sojourn here, but a muddy, brackish, nauseating mixture of iron, lime, coal, slime, and the quintessence of vegetable decomposition. Whereas, the truth is, I have not put a drop of disagreeable water to my lips since I entered the State. The most crystal waters of the Green Mountains do not exceed the limpid, clear, cool, delicious waters of Illinois. The country in all its broken portions abounds with springs in quality and quantity not to be surpassed in the world; and in the middle of the largest prairies the same delicious beverage, cold almost as ice, may be obtained by making a well a few feet beneath the surface. It is true that *all* the waters of the West are strongly impregnated with *lime*, which renders them somewhat hard; but one soon becomes so accustomed to it as not to notice it. It is also not to be denied that it acts medicinally on the emigrant. But this is far more salutary than injurious, if it be not too freely indulged, and it soon ceases to exert any undue influence on the system. I did not hesitate to indulge freely in its use, after the first fortnight, and I have never experienced the slightest inconvenience therefrom. Indeed, I do not believe so large a tract in New England, or the Middle States, can be found, in the same extent with Illinois, which produces so much pure water and so easily obtained."

From Chicago I continued my journey across the Fox river to the Rock river country, the El Dorado of America, and stopped at Winnebago County, where I have a son, Dr. Edward ^{Junior} Williams, engaged in the practice of medicine. I tarried there, and in the surrounding country, about five weeks, which gave me a good opportunity to become acquainted with the country and its inhabitants. The railroad now traverses this section of country, from Chicago to Galena on the Mississippi, which renders it easily accessible, and brings it within four days' travel from Boston. The beautiful towns, on or near this route, of Elgin, Belvidere, Cherry Valley, Rockford, Rockton and Beloit, offer quiet and beautiful retreats, where, at the public hotels, one may indulge in all the comforts and even luxuries of the East. Rockford already contains about three thousand inhabitants, and it is expected that in a short time it will contain ten thousand, as steam navigation on the Rock river terminates here, and two railroads are to pass directly through the

village. A more delightful place of resort cannot be offered to the invalid, in the midst of one of the most beautiful prairies of the west. The sportsman can here gratify himself to his heart's content with the amusement of hunting and fishing. Maskelunge and other delicious fish are often caught in the Rock river (which runs directly through this village), weighing twenty-five pounds each. Deer are often killed here, and prairie hens are always found in prolific abundance. Other game is not scarce. Beloit, sixteen miles north of Rockford, just across the line of Illinois and Wisconsin, is a village built in the style of a city, and about as large as Northampton, and quite as pleasant. It has, of late, become a place of literary resort for strangers of distinction, as well as for the inhabitants of the neighborhood. Already a college has been erected, which is in a flourishing condition, and at which all the branches are taught which are attended to in our New England colleges. It has received a munificent donation of ten thousand dollars from the Hon. Thomas W. Williams, of New London, in Connecticut, and of twenty thousand dollars from Mrs. Brown, I believe of Newburyport, in this State. The building is three stories high, besides the basement and cupola, and stands on an eminence of about 50 or 60 feet above the streets of Beloit. Its site was selected by Mr. Williams, the donor, and is in the midst of ancient Indian tumuli or monuments. From the top of this cupola the prospect is most extensive, lovely and enchanting. With the best telescope I could not measure the extent of the prairie. It was only bounded in all directions by the horizon. Beloit will probably soon become the seat of a medical college, and a most admirable location it will prove. Strange as it may seem, it is but a few miles north of the geographical centre of the United States.

Eighteen miles north of Beloit lies Janesville, with a population of more than four thousand. It is one of the most lovely villages of the west. Forty miles north, in the midst of the prairie, lies Madison, the capital of Wisconsin. Railroads are laid out to all these beautiful villages from Milwaukie, and in the course of the coming season, they will probably pass them, on their way to Galena, on the Mississippi, from which they diverge in all directions throughout the State of Illinois, giving the invalid the greatest facilities for visiting that beautiful country. We took the stage from Janesville to Milwaukie, a distance of sixty miles, and found the country beautifully interspersed with prairie and woodland. Milwaukie, in Wisconsin, is a beautiful lake port, with an excellent harbor on Lake Michigan. In 1850 it contained 21,000 inhabitants, and is increasing as rapidly as any town at the west. Twenty years ago the foot of a white man had scarcely trod upon the banks of the lake at this place. Fifteen years ago, probably 1,000 civilized beings did not exist between the shores of Lake Michigan and the banks of the Mississippi. Now, it is supposed 1,500,000 white settlers inhabit that beautiful country, possessing a climate and soil unequalled in the United States, and perhaps in the world. In point of salubrity and health, none can surpass it. Less than four days travel by steam will enable even the invalid to reach it, with no more fatigue than if he was sitting in his parlor in the city of Boston. To what an

illimitable growth, in point of population, is this western country destined? The report of the Patent Office, for 1849, states that in that year the commerce of the Lakes amounted to one hundred and eighty-six millions of dollars.

I took the splendid steamboat Hendrick Hudson, in the evening, at Milwaukee, on my return by the way of Mackinac and the upper lakes. The boat was crowded with passengers from Chicago, Southport and Racine, fine ports on Lake Michigan, which crowding of passengers rendered the voyage less pleasant than it otherwise would have been. The passage, however, was one of unalloyed pleasure to me. Passed Sheboygan and Green Bay in the night. Sheboygan is rapidly growing in wealth, population and importance. Green Bay is the residence of the remnant of the Stockbridge, Ms., tribe of Indians, who have recently removed here from Oneida County, N. Y. The Rev. Eleazer Williams, the Indian half breed, was formerly their minister. Between Milwaukee and Mackinac we pass the Manitou Islands, or the islands of the good and bad spirits of the Indians; also the sleeping or couchant bear, formed by a bluff of sand, resembling somewhat, in the distance, a slumbering bear. We likewise pass the Fox islands. At 9 o'clock in the evening we arrived at Michilimackinac (signifying the Turtle). The moon was then at her full, and the sky at that moment was cloudless. The setting sun, an hour before, exhibited the sky in the west in the most gorgeous and beautiful array. A few cumulus clouds were fringed in purple and gold, in the most beautiful costume I ever beheld. It was worth a sojourn there to see it. The white walls of the fort appeared in their utmost beauty in the charming light of the moon. The historical recollections of the place impressed my mind with deep and solemn reflections. I must refer the reader to that admirable and unsurpassed work by my friend Mr. Parkman, his history of the Pontiac conspiracy, for an account of the thrilling events which have taken place at this fortress in the French, Colonial and American histories of the sieges there. One other circumstance which renders the place famous, is its being the mart for Mackinac trout and delicious white fish, which are daily brought in here by the Indians, on their wagons or vehicles drawn by dogs.

It is to this place about, a day and a half's sail from Detroit, by Lakes St. Clair and Huron, that I wish particularly to direct the attention of the travelling invalid, as a summer retreat, or even a shorter sojourn, of great salubrity. Not depending on my own judgment alone, I am permitted by my esteemed friend, Dr. Daniel Drake, of Cincinnati, Ohio, one of the most industrious, elaborate and learned medical writers in the United States, to copy from his invaluable work upon the "Principal Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America," altogether the most learned and extensive work which has ever been published on the subject, and one which ought to be in the hands of every physician in our country, his chapter on "Summer Voyages on the Upper Lakes, with a residence at Mackinac for Invalids."

"The three great reservoirs of clear and cold water—Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior, with the island of Mackinac in their hydrographical centre—offer a delightful hot-weather asylum to all invalids

who need an escape from crowded cities, paludal exhalations, sultry climates, and officious medication. Lake Erie lies too far south, and is bordered with too many swamps, to be included in the salutiferous group. The voyage from Buffalo, Cleveland or Sandusky on that Lake, and from Chicago or Milwaukee on Lake Michigan, may afford, should the water be agitated, all the benefits of sea-sickness, without its tedious prolongation. On reaching Mackinac an agreeable change of climate is at once experienced; and the bodily feeling is heightened by the emotions which the evidence and consciousness of having retreated upon an island, raise in the mind of one who has not before enjoyed the novelty of an insular life. To his jaded sensibilities all around him is fresh and refreshing; a feeling of security comes over him, and when from the rocky battlements of Fort Mackinac, he looks down upon the surrounding waters, they seem a moat of defence against the host of annoyances from which he had sought a refuge. Thus a curative state of mind begins to act upon his body from the moment of his landing, and if he be a person of intelligence and taste, this salutary mental excitement will not soon die away; for the historic associations, not less than the scenery of this island, are well fitted to maintain it.

"The first white men who dwelt on Mackinac and the surrounding coasts, were the French ecclesiastics and fur traders. In 1763, the whole passed with Canada to the jurisdiction of Great Britain; by whom, in 1796, it was surrendered to the United States. In 1812 it was conquered by that power, and restored at the close of the war. From the summit of the island the eye rests upon a number of spots consecrated to military history. But the natural scenery is still better fitted to make the invalid forget his ailments. Several agreeable and exciting boat voyages may be made to the neighboring coasts; from each of which a new aspect may be had; and the island itself, although but nine miles in circuit, affords opportunities for a great variety of rambling on foot. In these excursions he may ascend to the apex of the island, once the site of a fort. From this summit, elevated far above all that surrounds it, the panorama is such as would justify the epithet to Mackinac—queen of the isles. To the west are the indented shores of the upper peninsula of Michigan; to the north those of the lower, presenting in the interior a distant and smoky line of elevated table land; up the straits green islets may be seen peeping above the waters directly in front of the harbor. Round Island forms a beautiful fore-ground, while the larger *Bois Blanc*, with its light-house, stretches off to the east; and to the south are other islands at varying distances, which complete the archipelago.

"When the observer directs his eyes upon the water more than the land, and the day is fair, with moderate wind, he finds the surface as variable in its tints as if clothed in a robe of changeable silk. Green and blue are the governing hues, but they flow into each other with such facility and frequency, that while still contemplating a particular spot, it seems, as if by magic, transformed into another; but these mid-day beauties vanish before those of the setting sun, when the boundless horizon of lake and land seems girt around with a fiery zone of clouds, and the brilliant drapery of the skies paints itself upon the surface of the waters

Brief as they are beautiful, these evening glories, like spirits of the air, quickly pass away, and the gray mantle of night warns the beholder to depart for the village while he may yet make his way along a narrow and rocky path, beset with tufts of prickly juniper. Having refreshed himself for an hour he may stroll out upon the beach, and listen to the serenade of the waters. Wave after wave will break at his feet, over the white pebbles, and return as limpid as it came. Up the straits he will see the evening star dancing on the ruffled surface, and the loose sails of the lagging schooner flapping in the fitful land-breeze; while the milky way—*Death's path* of the red man—will dimly appear in the waters before him. Behind, in the street, a lively group of Canadian French, of every shade of color between white and red, will gossip and shrug their shoulders; on one side, should the Indians, who still inhabit the shores of Lake Michigan, be on a visit to the island, he will hear the uproar of a lodge of drunken Chippewas, with the screams of women and children, and the cackling of frightened hens; on the other he will see the sober and listless Ottawa, sitting in silent vacancy of thought, on his upturned birch canoe, his wife within the tent, spreading cypress bark and flag mats upon the ground, as lodging for the night; while half a dozen children roll or play about the door, and as many half-starved dogs curl up among them. Surrounded by such scenes, the traveller begins to realize that he is a stranger; when suddenly a new phenomenon appears and fixes his conviction. Every object becomes more visible, and raising his eyes, he beholds the heavens illuminated with an aurora borealis, when he reads in fantastic characters of strange and eccentric light, that he is indeed a sojourner in a strange land.

"While the valetudinarian during the summer months makes the island of Mackinac his home, he may enjoy several interesting steam voyages. At any time he can descend to Detroit and Niagara; or passing through the straits of Mackinac, visit Chicago, Racine and Milwaukee on the western coast of Lake Michigan. Opportunities will likewise be presented to ascend the St. Mary to the *Sault*, where he will find much to interest him; and whence he may proceed in a fur-trading skiff, or a bark canoe, to Gros Cap, at the efflux of the river from Lake Superior. Finally, he may have it in his power to embark on that Lake, and visit the upper hills of the mineral region near its southern shore; the climate of which is represented as highly invigorating; while the novelty and wildness of the scenery will act with salutary influence on his imagination and feelings.

"Those who are prone to consumption, might, perhaps, experience some injury from the humidity of the lacustrine region; but to hypochondriacs, dyspeptics, chlorotics, and all who have their constitutions broken down by autumnal fever, it must, however, prove eminently restorative."

I have already written enough for one communication. Should the invalid prefer a shorter tour, in another paper I can show him, from Drake and others, other locations equally lovely and salubrious nearer home. The journey and voyage which I have described was one of almost unalloyed pleasure and enjoyment.

Deerfield, Mass., May 27th, 1852.

 THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

 BOSTON, JUNE 9, 1852.

Medical Practice in Louisiana.—A repeal has been made by the Legislature, says an exchange, of the privileges heretofore enjoyed by the medical profession in collecting their fees. Formerly practitioners could not collect their dues if they did not belong to the regularly organized society. As we understand the new law, it is like the system in Massachusetts and some other States. The question is not to be asked whether the individual presenting a bill for professional services is a physician, surgeon or midwife, but, did he prescribe, and if so, the bill must be paid. There is no protection for learned, skilful practitioners. The cry of *No Monopoly* operates to the destruction of all associations which have had in view the respectability and educational preparation of those who take upon themselves the responsibilities of medical practitioners.

Artificial Feet.—Some time since reference was made to the case of a young man who lost both feet by being crushed during the tornado, last summer, at West Cambridge, Mass. One leg was amputated above the knee, and the other below, by Dr. Townsend. Artificial legs and feet have been fitted to the stumps, at Palmer's establishment in Springfield. We saw the unfortunate sufferer walking about the other day, in Boston—and we are quite sure no person would have suspected his lower extremities were made of wood. The success attending this case is a triumph of art, and highly creditable to the ingenuity of the manufacturer. If he could put on artificial heads as well as feet, perhaps the State would be a gainer.

Amputation of the Lower Jaw.—Dr. Carnochan's successful operation, in New York, very properly gives him that prominence as a surgeon which genius and skill will command in any country. His care in securing the tongue, and the restoration of its function, although detached and the whole bony structure of the lower jaw removed, is particularly remarkable and instructive.

Reminiscences of Smallpox.—On a plan of Boston, executed in 1722, a memorandum is introduced in one corner, as follows: "Gen. smallpox, first, 1640; second, 1660; third, 1677; fourth, 1680 and 1690; fifth, 1702; sixth, 1721." Instead of coming occasionally, as in the olden time, it is now always existing; and the most singular circumstance in connection with it, is the fact that we have a sovereign preventive. Till people can be divested of their prejudice, smallpox will continue a fixture in all our commercial cities. There is invariably some one who does not believe in the efficacy of vaccination, or entertains an opinion that something quite as bad as smallpox is introduced with the virus, and thus there are always susceptible subjects left unprotected to keep the scourge alive. One of the annoyances which a physician is obliged to endure, and which sometimes actually interferes with his practice, is the nourished whim

among quite intelligent persons, in regard to the imagined derivation of any kind of eruption or tumefaction, from vaccination. They refer any and every boil, pimple, blotch, imposthume and ulceration, to that harmless act, if it happens to be developed subsequent to kinepock inoculation. All these things prevent that universal diffusion of the blessings of a discovery, the most reliable and extraordinary of any in the history of civilization.

Poison Taker.—From the Phrenological Journal, the following extraordinary extract has been taken. We were in Prague less than a year ago, and never heard a word about the man whose name is associated with the daring feats chronicled in this paragraph:—

"The death of Dr. Ellenberger, a naturalist of Prague, has been recently announced. This gentleman was a sort of modern Mithridates, and had, for many years previous to his death, been in the constant habit of swallowing the most deadly poisons, and of neutralizing their effects by immediately taking the antidotes. Some years ago, M. Orfila, who was travelling in Germany, paid a visit to the Museum of Natural History at Prague; Dr. Ellenberger was presented to him, and commenced immediately to give the eminent chemist a running account of his experiments with the antidotes of the vegetable alkalies, and especially with that of strychnine and morphine, and offered to make M. Orfila an eye-witness of his success. He sent to a neighboring apothecary's for fifteen decigrammes (23 grains Troy!) of acetate of morphine, and M. Orfila having declared it to be perfectly pure, he rolled it into a bullet and swallowed it. Thirty seconds after, he took an equal quantity of a white powder which he carried in his pocket. No effect whatever followed this double dose. The Doctor stated that he had already done the same thing times without number, upon himself, upon animals, and even upon plants, which he washed first with a liquid strongly impregnated with a poison, and afterwards with the antidote. He had even made experiments with strychnine, and always with success. His death was caused by the accidental use of the wrong counter-poison, after having swallowed a heavy dose of some violently active agent."

Cholera.—Deaths are of frequent occurrence by this once much-dreaded disease, but the people have become accustomed to its terrors, and hear of a sweeping mortality by its unrelaxing grasp, with a degree of composure that could only result from familiarity with its character. It is quite certain that several sections at the west and south are doomed the present season to a repetition of former scenes of devastation. Physicians have grown wiser than they were, and we therefore hear of no specifics of late. Medication has not accomplished anything in Asiatic cholera worth recording.

Deaf, Dumb and Insane.—According to the recapitulatory table of the seventh census, just published, it appears that the number of deaf and dumb persons returned is 10,103; of whom 529 are inhabitants of Massachusetts. This is the proportion of one deaf and dumb person in the United States for every 2,302, and in Massachusetts one for every 1,878. The difference is probably attributable to the more complete enumeration of this class of persons in Massachusetts than in many other parts of the

Union. The number of blind persons is 9,702, or one for every 2,397. In Massachusetts 497, or one to every 2,000 inhabitants. The number of insane is 15,768, or one in 1,471. In Massachusetts, 1,647, or one in every 604. The number of idiots is 15,706, or one in 1,481. In Massachusetts 791, or one in 1,256.

Philadelphia College of Physicians.—A report on the pathology and epidemics of 1851, constitutes a large portion of the quarterly report of this college for April. It is exceedingly minute, and in all respects must be acceptable to those who have a taste for such investigations. Dr. Ruschenburger has omitted nothing that was necessary to make the tabular statements complete. The other papers are less interesting than heretofore. It is not possible, however, to keep up an uninterrupted file of first class articles in any periodical. As a whole, we consider this publication to be among the most valuable in the country, on account of the originality of its matter. The members borrow nothing—all their thoughts are their own.

Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Journal.—This is to be a bi-monthly—a neat, respectable sheet, with evidences enough in the first number to show that men of thought are the conductors. Why don't the editor place his name on the frontlet of the Journal? May the enterprise thrive, and the projector get something more substantial than praise in exchange for literary drudgery. The printer should spell correctly, hereafter, the name of the city in which he resides.

Wood's Practice of Medicine.—Of course the profession is familiar with the writings of the professor of theory and practice in the University of Pennsylvania, and it will therefore be quite unnecessary to preface any observations on a new edition of his admirable treatise on the branch of medicine in which he is eminent, beyond announcing its properties. This work, a standard one in America, with a reputation as extensive as the English language, comprised in two very neat octavos of nearly 850 pages each, embraces the whole domain of physic. A third edition, just out, comprises the very latest improvements and suggestions, and is as complete as such researches can be, down to the day of publication. Dr. Wood is the only prominent author who has boldly acknowledged his indebtedness to the Journals, in his particular department. It is customary to refer to defunct authorities—to Cullen and the teachers of his age—instead of the progressive minds of our own times. Dr. Wood takes facts wherever he can find them, classifies them, and gives a character and dignity to each and every subject belonging to the field he cultivates. We have long been an admirer of Dr. Wood in all the relations he sustains in society, as a firm, consistent, learned man. The impress of his excellent qualities runs through his writings, and we see on every page of this voluminous chart of his industry the conscientious instructor, and a practitioner who contemplates life as a precious thing, not to be tampered with by the ignorant. Messrs. Lippincott, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia, have executed their contract with the medical public, satisfactorily—for two nobler volumes are rarely seen, so free from typographical errors or bibliographical defects. With the many improvements

and additions this third edition has had from Dr. Wood, it should call forth a far greater demand than it has yet had. Copies may be had in Boston, at Ticknor & Co.'s, Washington street.

"*God in Disease.*"—This is the title of a recently published duodecimo, to which is superadded—"Or the manifestations of Design in morbid phenomena," by James F. Duncan, M.D., of Dublin. Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston have shown their good sense in presenting this modest, unpretending work to the reading public in this country. It is elevated in character, abounding in consolations to the afflicted, and well calculated to impress the reader with the merciful government of God. While one chapter dwells on the nature of the design which disease is intended to accomplish, another treats of it as affording evidence of design. Something after the manner of Paley, the author finds much that is beautiful, comforting and harmonizing in all our aches and pains, because they are in exact accordance with those laws the Creator has established, which eventuate in our greatest good, however unwilling we may be to credit it at the time. Of course, Dr. Duncan's musings are not rules of medical practice, yet they are guides to moral standing, purity and happiness. For those who are not distracted with business, but have half an hour a day for an arm-chair, this is the book to give direction to the thoughts and suggest considerations that may have a bearing upon the future destiny of the soul. Who dare say that physicians are inclined to infidelity when they take pleasure in the perusal of a production like this?

New Publications on Medicine.—After a long dearth, instead of gentle showers, new works have literally poured down the past week. It is quite gratifying to feel that the press is not paralyzed. Next week we shall give some account of several valuable books that are fresh from the bindery. Philadelphia is more prolific in scientific productions than all the other cities of the country together.

The papers make mention of a Canadian woman who has had sixteen children in fifteen years, and one of the number weighed 21 lbs. at birth. —Several shocking cases of hydrophobia have recently occurred at the west.—Four millions of men in China are said to be opium drunkards, of whom 400,000 die annually.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Ayer's Case of Inversion of the Uterus has been received, and will be inserted next week.

MARRIED.—Dr. Elisha W. Cross, of Bradford, Vt., to Mrs. M. E. Picket.—At Philadelphia, Dr. A. D. Henderson, to Miss M. V. Peaco.—Dr. B. R. Bridge, of Charlestown, Mass., to Miss B. M. Sherman.—Dr. Charles Page, U. S. Army, to Miss E. H. Carmichael.

DIED.—At Granville, Ohio, Wm. R. Richards, M.D., formerly of New London, Conn., 65.

Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday noon, June 5, 58.—Males, 22—females, 36. Accidental, 3—apoplexy, 1—inflammation of bowels, 1—disease of brain, 4—consumption, 13—convulsions, 3—cancer, 1—dropsy of brain, 3—typhus fever, 2—scarlet fever, 1—infantile, 4—inflammation of lungs, 2—marasmus, 2—measles, 3—old age, 4—palsy, 2—pleurisy, 2—puerperal, 2—scrofula, 1—teething, 1—tumor, 1—unknown, 2.

Under 5 years, 19—between 5 and 20 years, 5—between 20 and 40 years, 19—between 40 and 60 years, 6—over 60 years, 9. Americans, 30; foreigners and children of foreigners, 28. The above includes 8 deaths at the City institutions.

Sums paid by the French Government towards the Maintenance of Scientific Bodies.—In the Budget of 1852, the Academy of Medicine is quoted at £1,117. The secretary receives upon this sum £160, the director of the vaccine establishment £80, the librarian £48, and £600 go to the members, who receive each three francs per sitting. The Institute—viz. 1, the Academy of Sciences; 2, of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres; 3, of Fine Arts; 4, of Moral and Political Sciences; and 5, the French Academy—costs £14,675. The secretary of the Academy of Sciences is paid £480; the other secretaries have only £240; and each academicien receives £60 a year for his attendance at the meetings. The Academy of Sciences is divided into eleven sections, one of which comprises Medicine and Surgery. The members for the first science, are MM. Magendie, Serres and Andral; for the latter MM. Roux, Velpeau and Lallemand. M. Civiale is a free academicien—viz. of an inferior degree. At the Museum of Natural History there are fifteen professors, who are paid each £200 a year; with several minor officers. Travelling naturalists are allowed £1,000 annually. The keeping of the Botanical Garden, the Zoological Collection, and the Museum of Natural History, costs £8,600. It will thus be seen that all these establishments are wholly supported by the State—besides the "College of France," a sort of "Athenæum," where twenty-eight professors are salaried by Government, to give gratuitous lectures on languages, sciences, &c. There is at this College, a Chair of Physiology, occupied by M. Magendie; the salary of the professors is £200 a year.—*London Lancet.*

Galvanic Chains.—We find in a Belgian medical journal the following curious case related by M. Henrotay, a military surgeon. It runs as follows:—Geerairts, 38 years of age, keeper of ordnance stores at the camp of Beverloo, in Belgium, was in the habit of wearing, on account of old rheumatic pains, a galvanic chain, which was fastened to his chest. Being, the last summer, close to a spot which was struck with lightning, he was suddenly seized with a fit of dyspnœa, which lasted full a quarter of an hour. As he was no worse for that attack, he soon forgot the circumstance, when on the 1st of May, 1851, whilst reading the paper in his room, the window of which was open, he was aroused by a violent clap of thunder. Immediately upon this, the man had vertigo, he staggered about, was obliged to hold by the furniture, and was all at once completely deprived of sight. He had at the time the galvanic chain around his neck. When seen by the surgeon, there was great anxiety in the patient's countenance, the eyes were open and almost motionless, the pupils dilated and hardly acting, &c. The man complained of severe headache and giddiness, the pulse was slow, feeble and compressible, and a bellows murmur was heard in the cardiac region. The patient was very thirsty, and there was nausea, anorexia, and slight pain on pressure in the epigastrium. Leeches were applied behind the ears, sinapisms to the legs, and low diet enforced. As there was no improvement two days after the accident, a large blister was put on the nape of the neck, some amelioration took place, and sight was quite restored on the sixth day.—*Id.*

The hospitality shown at Richmond, to the members of the American Medical Association, at their late meeting, is spoken of as fully equalling anything of the kind at former meetings.